



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to Five Years in Prison In Brazen Downtown Attack And Robbery of Pedestrian - Defendant Had Two Additional Stolen Cell Phones at Time of Arrest -

WASHINGTON - Fidel Quintanilla, 18, of Washington, D.C., has been sentenced to nearly five years of incarceration on charges stemming from a robbery and assault of a woman near a downtown Metro station, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Quintanilla was convicted in April 2011 by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He was sentenced on August 8, 2011 to a total of four years and 360 days in prison on the charges of robbery, assault with significant bodily injury, and receipt of stolen property. The Honorable Florence Y. Pan also ordered him to pay restitution.

According to the government's evidence, the defendant and a juvenile attacked the woman late December 19, 2010, as she was walking to the Farragut West Metro station. The victim was crossing K Street at Connecticut Avenue NW, and the juvenile came up from behind her and tried to grab her bags. She resisted, and the juvenile knocked her to the ground and punched her head repeatedly. When she screamed for help, Quintanilla joined in the attack, trying to pull away her purse and hitting her in the arm. He grabbed her cell phone from her hand.

A passing driver saw the suspects flee and offered to assist the victim. Together, they drove around the area and spotted the defendant, walking alone, only a couple of blocks from the site of the attack. They called the police, and then followed Quintanilla as he walked north on Connecticut Avenue and was joined by two juveniles, one of whom was the other attacker.

Police arrested all three individuals. When police stopped Quintanilla, he tossed the victim's cell phone. He was found to be carrying two additional cell phones, one of which had been taken in a robbery of a pregnant woman an hour earlier and blocks away. The government's evidence suggested that this robbery was perpetrated by juvenile friends of the defendant. The third phone, an iPhone, had been stolen from a vehicle in November 2010. The government's evidence showed that the defendant had been using this iPhone to call, text, and take pictures

even while he continued receiving e-mails intended for the true owner on the phone.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers who investigated the case, including Detectives DeJuan Williams and Charles Fultz and Officer Michael O'Dea. U.S. Attorney Machen also praised the work of U.S. Attorney's Office Investigator John Marsh, who performed a forensic analysis on the recovered phones. He also recognized the assistance of Thomas Royal, Joshua Ellen, and Jeanie Latimore-Brown of the Litigation Technology Unit, as well as Paralegal Specialist Tamaya Reid for her work in preparing the case for trial. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorney Trevor McFadden, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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